Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 SSO-00 AGR-05 AID-05

CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SY-05 TRSE-00

USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /060 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:GBROWN:S/NM:RADUGSTAD:OSG:AG APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE ARA/MEX:JKEANE DEA:BMORENO (SUBS) ARA:WLUERS (SUBS)

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O 221849Z MAY 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 119830

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE USE OF HERBICIDES IN NARCOTICS

ERADICATION CAMPAIGN REFERENCE: MEXICO 4224

FOR AMBASSADOR JOVA

1. BASED ON REFTEL AND CONVERSATIONS TODAY WITH EMBASSY COORDINATOR ALBERTI, WE UNDERSTAND ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA WILL PROBABLY NOT BE IN A POSITION DURING TALKS HERE TO STATE DEFINITIVELY WHETHER OR NOT GOM WILL WANT TO USE HERBICIDES IN NEXT ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. STILL, THIS QUESTION WILL HAVE A BEARING ON SIZE AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO BE CONCLUDED IN FY 75 AND IS LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED. FOR THIS REASON, WE WANT USG PARTICIPANTS IN DISCUSSIONS TO BE PREPARED TO RESPOND INPRINCIPLE AND ON GENERAL TERMS TO THIS ISSUE.

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2. IF OJEDA SUGGESTS USG ASSISTANCE IN HERBICIDE USE, USG PARTICIPANTS WOULD SAY THAT USG COULD CONSIDER PROVIDING EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS. IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT THESE QUESTIONS SHOULD ARISE, WE WOULD MAKE NO COMMITMENTS CONCERNING PURCHASE AND ACQUISITION OF HERBICIDES, SUBJECT TO

FURTHER REVIEW IN WASHINGTON AND EMBASSY, MEXICO. IT WOULD BE VASTLY PREFERABLE FOR GOM TO FUND AT LEAST THIS ASPECT.

- 3. WE UNDERSTAND THIS WOULD PROBABLY BE OJEDA'S PREFERENCE, TOO, SINCE HE VIEWS DECISION AS A MEXICAN ONE TO WHICH OUR COOPERATION IS MERELY SUPPORTIVE. ALSO, WE UNDERSTAND THIS LIMITED COOPERATION CONFORMS WITH YOUR JUDGMENT OF THE WAY BEST TO MINIMIZE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS WHILE IMPROVING EFFECTIVENESS OF THE ERADICATION EFFORT.
- 4. AS INDICATED ABOVE, ANY PROPOSALS THAT MIGHT ARISE DURING TALKS FOR USG INVOLVEMENT IN HERBICIDE CAMPAIGN WOULD BE SUBJECT TO FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN USG WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN DEFINED ADEQUATELY FOR DECISION. INGERSOLL

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To: MEXICO

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